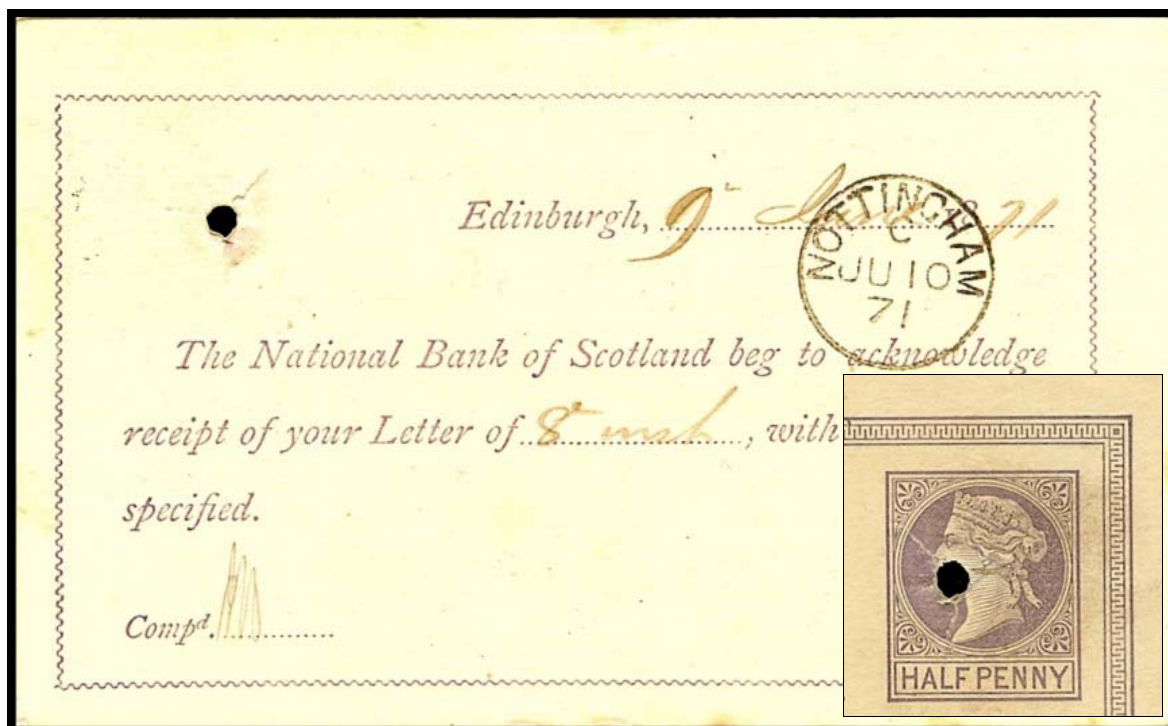


## EDINBURGH BULLET – CANCEL OR PRE-CANCEL?

Maurice Harp

As perfin collectors we are all well aware of the Sloper arrow cancellations used in London & Liverpool to help cope with the massive use by the public of postcards. Fewer though are aware of the so called “Bullet” cancels. These were first recorded in the English Specialists’ Journal in 1897, on two postcards used in Manchester. Since then similar punch holes have been recorded from Bradford, Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool and Edinburgh. Whether these are cancellations applied by the Post Office or whether they are simply filing holes made on postcards that escaped cancellation is anybody’s guess, as there is no documentary evidence that such “cancellations” were ever officially adopted.



However the Edinburgh Bullets may be a little different. I have recorded seven of these scarce cards – six of them were used by the National Bank of Scotland and the seventh by the Royal Bank of Scotland. These cards were sent out to acknowledge receipt of a customers’ letter and so many hundreds would have been sent out every week. It is possible that the Banks had an agreement to pre-cancel these cards and thus take the pressure off the Post Office. This is of course just conjecture. If any member has one of these cards I would be delighted to hear from you.